

DOWNSIDE SCHOOL

In partnership with **FutureSmartCareers**



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2025

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September 2026
entry taster days**



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News updates

Plan Northeast Youth Ambassador calls for better careers education, BBC news



Rylie Sweeney champions the views of young people in the north-east of England as one of the Children's Commissioner's ambassadors. Miss Sweeney is calling for careers education in schools to be improved and embedded in the national curriculum and for more meaningful work experience for young people. The article makes interesting reading: [Northeast youth ambassador calls for better careers education](#).

Number of UK 18-year-olds accepted into university or college hits record high, UCAS



Figures published by UCAS 14th August show 82% of offer-holders were placed at their first-choice, the same proportion as in 2024: [Number of UK 18-year-olds accepted into university or college hits record high](#). The figures also indicate an increase in placements for 18-year-olds from the most deprived areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and subjects with the largest increases are engineering and technology, mathematical sciences and law.

Plan to boost jobs for newly qualified Nurses and Midwives – BBC news



New measures to make it easier for NHS employers in England to take on newly qualified nurses and midwives have been announced by government: [Plan to boost jobs for newly qualified nurses and midwives - BBC News](#). The move comes after warnings there are up to three times more graduates than vacancies in some areas of the health service. Read the full article [here](#).

Prospects Luminate: Are job vacancies reverting to long-term trend?



This insightful article from Prospects Luminate: [Are job vacancies reverting to long-term trend? | Luminate](#) gives a clear picture of the industries that are thriving and those that are struggling at present; highlighting the importance of using Labour Market Information to make informed decisions for young people and their parents or carers, teachers and advisers. Read the full article [here](#).

Career Development Policy Group - Policy brief, July 2025



In July, The Career Development Policy Group wrote a commentary on recent policy development, the [Schools policy brief](#). Calling on Government to reaffirm proposals, discussing the defunding of service provision over 15 years and demonstrating how critical Careers Guidance in Schools is to improving life chances, boosting opportunities and delivering economic growth, it's a timely report reminding us of the vital role Careers Guidance plays. Read the brief [here](#).

Upcoming Events

MedicMentor ONLINE 'Get into' Conferences, September 2025



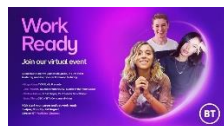
UPCOMING: [MedicMentor](#) run free, VIRTUAL, 'Get into' Conferences for aspiring medical & dental students in years 10-12. This month's Conferences will run on: Saturday 20th September, Sunday 21st September, Sunday 28th September from 9am - 1:30pm [Get into Medicine](#) and Saturday 27th September from 9am - 1:30pm [Get Into Dentistry](#). Students will learn about aspects such as Timelines, Choosing Medical/Dental Schools, Personal Statements, Interviews, National Leadership and Awards Programmes, Work Experience, the UCAT and Accessing Scholarships.

USA Colleges Day 2025, London – Fulbright Commission



[USA College Day 2025](#) will take place on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th September at Kensington Town Hall, London. The event is Europe's largest US university fair, attracting more than 100 university exhibitors, and is ideal for learning about undergraduate degrees in America, offering students and parents the opportunity to meet with representatives from US universities in London. FREE to attend, you must register for a ticket. Register for your place [here](#).

BT Work Ready Programme – register for in-person workshops



The [BT Work Ready programme](#), an initiative from BT group, helps young people prepare for the tech-driven world of work and supports 11–14-year-olds in building practical digital and human skills that the future demands. There are interactive sessions, FREE engaging virtual boot camp, in-person workshops and access to an online digital hub with curriculum linked resources. To register your interest in joining a virtual boot camp or in-person workshop, email workready@bt.com

EOTAS 2025 Careers Fair, Swindon - Thursday 13th November 9.00am – 1.00pm



[Eotas Swindon](#) will be holding their 2025 Careers Fair on **Thursday 13th November 2025, 9.00am – 1.00pm**. The event will be attended by Year 10 and 11 students from EOTAS Oakfield, Fernbrook and Riverside colleges, in addition to other local schools including special schools usually enticing around 150 students throughout the day. To find out more, including booking a stand, contact Julia Richardson at Eotas Swindon.

Discover! Creative Careers Week – Scotland and Wales



[Discover! Creative Careers Week](#) is rolling out in Scotland and Wales. Led by Into Film, the event will inspire thousands of young people aged 11-18. Employers from across Creative Industries will deliver free activities for schools and colleges, showcasing the wide range of job roles and pathways. Funded by the [Department of Culture, Media and Sport \(DCMS\)](#), delivery will be led by Screen Skills in partnership with industry, education providers and careers professionals. Find out more at [Discover! Creative Careers](#).

University of Exeter: Discovery University webinar series 2025/26



The [University of Exeter's Discover University programme](#) is offering an online, FREE, webinar series for the 2025/26 UCAS cycle. The series runs on Mondays from 6-7pm and covers both general and subject-related sessions, Examples include: Choosing a course and university, Considering a competitive university, Degree apprenticeships, Personal Statements and Student Finance; as well subject sessions in: Engineering, Medicine, Law, Philosophy, Physics & Astronomy and Theology. Book to attend [here](#).

Recommended Websites & Resources

The Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (TIAH) Careers Hub



The [Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture \(TIAH\) Careers hub](#) is an excellent resource for those seeking information on employability in farming and growing industries and the bursaries available. This website can support young jobseekers with routes into these roles. View job profiles, source Careers Advice and try VIRTUAL Work Shadowing at [TIAH Careers Hub](#).

Getting ready for Higher Education guide – UCAS, August 2025



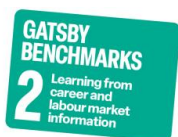
The team at UCAS have produced this informative guide to [Getting ready for higher education](#). With tips and on Studying, Managing Finances, Living away from Home, Diversity and friendships, Staying healthy, Looking after your wellbeing, Individual needs and Disability Support and International students Support, it's a comprehensive resource and one-stop-shop for students and parents/carers preparing for the move into Higher Education.

BIMM: 7 magazines to read to stay in touch with the industry



Did you know that in **2023, the UK music industry contributed a record-breaking £7.6 billion** to the economy and that the industry **supported 216,000 job roles**, showcasing its vital role in the employment and culture of the UK? BIMM have created a list of [7 music mags not to miss](#), to help young people keep in touch with the industry.

UCAS Adviser: Benchmark 2 just got bigger - here's what you need to do next



The May 2025 Department for Education update expanded the scope of Gatsby Benchmark 2 for schools in England, so UCAS Adviser have teamed up with careers expert Caroline Green RCDP to break down what's changed and help you prepare with confidence [Benchmark 2 just got bigger](#). Key takeaways: All key stages now matter, Informed Decision-making takes centre stage and Independent Training Providers (ITPs) are now included. Read Caroline's full post [here](#).

CDI's 'WeAreCareers' Podcast



The CDI has a podcast which is a useful resource [We Are Careers - Career Development Institute](#). Join Sabiha and Chris Webb fortnightly on Wednesday at midday to hear from special guests and for your shot of CPD, news and views from the #careersphere. You can follow #WeAreCareers on [Spotify](#) to receive notifications of new episodes. #WeAreCareers also has its own dedicated channel on YouTube. Why not [subscribe to the channel](#)?

FutureSmart Careers September Blog – Top 10 Tips To Help you Secure a Place at Medical School



The FutureSmart Careers September blog is on our website now. [Top Ten Tips to help you Secure a Place at Medical School](#) encourages students to check it's the right career for them, be aware of the competition for places (AAA grades are typical A-Level requirements and GCSEs also impact on offers made), research thoroughly (UCAT score carries a 40% weighting to your application), source good quality work experience, remember the 15th October application deadline and that interview preparation is key.

FutureSmart Careers resources hub – Entry Requirements back for 2026 entry applicants



FutureSmart Careers [Entry Requirements For Popular Uk Courses](#) are back for 2026 entry applicants and on our website now. The popular resources provide information on entry requirements by subject for top UK universities, as well as those universities asking for middle or lower entry requirements (based on Complete Uni Guide and The Times' league tables 2026). Those schools signed up to the Resources Hub on our website will be able to access them [here](#).

Apprenticeship Opportunities

Devon and Cornwall Police all-entry-routes recruitment campaign – September 2025



Devon and Cornwall Police, in partnership with Dorset Police, are running a [Recruitment campaign](#) for all entry routes (including Degree Apprenticeship). Application is open until 29th September with under-represented groups welcome. Online awareness events are Thursday 18th and 25th September at 5:30-6:30pm, to learn about entry routes, eligibility, application and a day in the life of a Police Officer. Book onto an [Awareness event](#) and apply at [D&C Police Officer application](#).

JPMorganChase - 2026 Apprenticeships and work experience programmes



JPMorganChase have opened their 2026 entry Apprenticeship applications [Programs | JPMorganChase](#). Closing in early November and rarely advertised externally, roles include: Customer Service, Financial Services, Technology, Finance and Business Management and Software Engineering; as well as one- or two-week Work Experience programmes. Stay ahead of Applications opening, using their [Keep Informed](#) webform.

AWE 2026 entry Engineering Apprenticeships – register interest for 2026 entry by October 2025



The AWE 2026 entry Engineering Apprenticeships [AWE Engineering Apprenticeships](#) open for application October 2025. Whether you're into problem-solving, project planning, or precision engineering, there's a path for you, from Level 3 (Advanced) to Level 6 (Degree) apprenticeships. You'll earn a competitive salary, get real-world experience and build your network. Since launching, our apprenticeship programme has supported over 6,000 apprentices and won awards, so register your interest [here](#).

2026 Audit Data and Analytics Apprenticeships at KPMG – apply by 31st October 2025



KPMG's 2026 entry [Degree Apprenticeships](#) are open for applications. Apprenticeship programmes are offered in areas like Audit, Tax & Law, Business Services, Technology & Engineering and Consulting; including this Data and Analytics opportunity. Available nationwide, with a competitive salary, you can find out more and apply [here](#).

Sutton Trust 2025 Yr 12 Pathways programme – application open now



FREE to attend, the [Sutton Trust: Yr 12 Pathways programme](#) offers young people help with work experience, employability and university and apprenticeship application support, you'll get the opportunity to build your CV and network with industry insiders. To check eligibility and find out more, see [Am I eligible? - Sutton Trust Pathways](#).

For Careers Leaders/Heads of Careers Department

University of Cambridge STEM Smart programme 2026 – application open now



The [University of Cambridge's STEM Smart programme](#), in association with Issac Science, will run again in August 2026. Students can apply now, until 31st October. A widening participation initiative, the programme is aimed at students interested in: Engineering, Computer Science, Physical Sciences or Biological or Behavioural Sciences and taking A-Levels, or the equivalent, in Maths and Science. Students can apply for consideration [here](#).

Oxford Admissions Tests registration – deadline 26th September



REMINDER: Registered candidates with no access arrangements or approved standard access arrangements can book their admissions tests until 26 September at 6pm BST. Tests can be booked via the [Oxford Admissions Tests registration portal dashboard](#). Bookings are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis and candidates with standard non-time-based arrangements, or who have non-standard arrangements that require an implementation plan, will be contacted directly by Pearson VUE to arrange the booking.

University of Cambridge: upcoming Admissions Tests registration deadlines



A reminder to University of Cambridge applicants to check whether their course requires an admissions test [University of Cambridge](#). Registrations for tests are open now, so students can book their place. Deadlines are: Law **15th September**, Medicine **19th September** and Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Computer Science and Economics on **29th September** You can find further information at: [University of Cambridge admissions tests](#).

UCAS Adviser – 10 ways to incorporate AI planning in the year ahead



Rose Luckin's blog for UCAS Adviser, [10 ways to incorporate AI planning in the year ahead](#), shares some great strategies for Developing your AI policy, Applying the Three-lens framework, Building AI literacy across your staff, Human Intelligence development, Evaluation and Review of tools and Connecting with the broader Community. Read the full blog [here](#).

UCAS Teachers and Advisers Conference: 24th - 25th February 2026



Join UCAS for the [Teachers and Advisers Conference](#) in Birmingham on the 24th and 25th February 2026. THE essential event for professionals guiding students through post-16 and post-18 choices, this year's conference is designed to deliver practical insight, strategic clarity, and actionable tools that educators can take straight back to the classroom. **Bookings open from 15 September 2025** at [UCAS Teachers and Advisers Conference | Attend](#).

Officially Amazing best practice platform launches - Amazing Apprenticeships



The team at [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) have launched their national, best practice in Careers, platform 'Officially Amazing'. Shining a spotlight on schools and colleges delivering outstanding careers education, the platform celebrates innovative approaches to employer engagement, vocational pathways, and apprenticeship promotion across England and showcases inspiring case studies from schools and colleges making a real impact in helping students explore their options. Find out more and get inspired at [Officially Amazing](#).

UK University & Apprenticeship Search Events



REMINDER: The UK University & Apprenticeship search events are at **Bristol, Ashton Gate Stadium** on **Wednesday 8th October**, booking details [here](#) and **Cardiff, Cardiff City Stadium** on **Wednesday 22nd October**, booking details [here](#). Featuring stands from Russell Group, Red brick, post-1992 HEIs and Apprenticeship providers, there are seminars too. They are offering limited financial contribution towards your coach travel (on first come basis) when bringing a group of 50 or more students.

Green Careers Week (GCW) – 3rd to 8th November 2025

National Careers Week



[Green Careers Week](#) is dedicated to showcasing exciting and sustainable career paths that support a greener future. Get inspired and get involved. Visit [Green Careers Week](#) and the [Green Careers Hub](#) to access the latest resources and information.

Get in touch

Helpline



Kyley Houghton, our Helpline Manager and our team welcome enquiries from schools, parents, and students. The helpline is staffed between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday at helpline@futuresmartcareers.co.uk.

Oliver Simper
Head of Careers
osimper@downside.co.uk

FutureSmart Careers Apprenticeship Support



Since the announcement that the DfE has removed the funding for the ASK programme, we are delighted to announce that FSC will be offering an Apprenticeship Support Package to schools and colleges. We have produced a suite of workshops and talks to include the best bits from the ASK programme, but with the added extras we feel are needed. The Apprenticeship support we are offering is a paid for service, but we are working hard to make it cost effective and flexible to help you support your students. We are also able to work in all geographic areas we cover.

If you would like to find out more about this service or book in a meeting to discuss further, Please click on the link to complete the form: [Apprenticeship Support - Expression of Interest Form](#)

Contact us



For all other enquiries, please contact our team at enquiries@futuresmartcareers.co.uk or give us a call on Tel: 0330 311 9509

We'd love to hear from you!